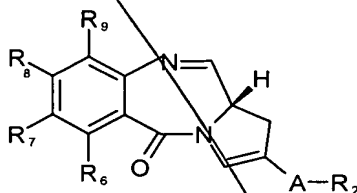
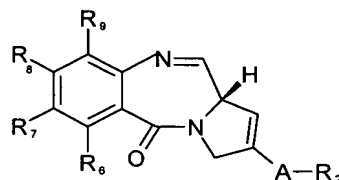


Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice amended.) A pyrrolobenzodiazepine compound of the formula **Ia** or **Ib**:



(Ia)



(Ib)

wherein:

A is CH₂, or a single bond;

R₂ is selected from: R, OH, OR, CO₂H, CO₂R, COH, COR, SO₂R, CN, CH₂OR or CH=CR^AR^B, where R^A and R^B are independently selected from H, R^C, COR^C, CONH₂, CONHR^C, CONR₂^C, cyano or phosphonate, where R^C is an unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and R₈ is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn, where R is as defined above or where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula **Ia** or **Ib**, where the R₈ groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R¹-X- linking the monomers, where R¹ is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or

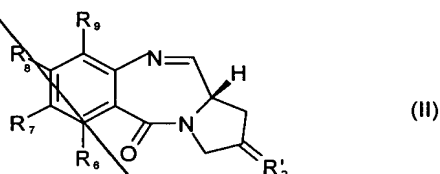
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triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or R₇ and R₈ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2; with the proviso that when A is a single bond, then R₂ is not CH=CR^AR^B, where R^A and R^B are independently selected from H, R^C, COR^C, CONH₂, CONHR^C, CONR^C₂, cyano or phosphonate, where R^C is an unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Twice amended.) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is a single bond, and R₂ is an aryl group, or an alkyl or alkaryl group which contains at least one double bond which forms part of a conjugated system with a double bond of the pyrrolobenzodiazepine compound C-ring.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (Twice amended.) A compound of formula II:



wherein:

R₂' is O;

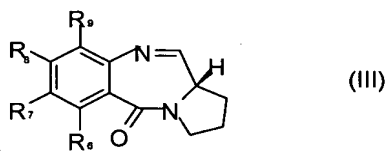
R₆, R₇ and R₈ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula II, where the R₈ groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R¹-X- linking the monomers, where R¹ is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N.

Please amend claim 20 as follows:

20. (Twice amended.) A compound of the formula **III**:



wherein:

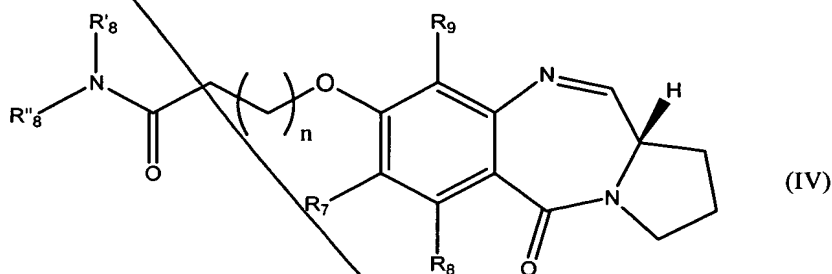
CA
R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups, or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and R₈ is amino.

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

29. (Once amended.) A compound of formula IV:



CS
wherein:

R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups, or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

R₈' and R₈'' are either independently selected from H, R or together form a cyclic amine; and

n is from 1 to 7.

Please amend claim 38 as follows:

38. (Twice amended.) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 50 to a patient in need of such treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer, breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

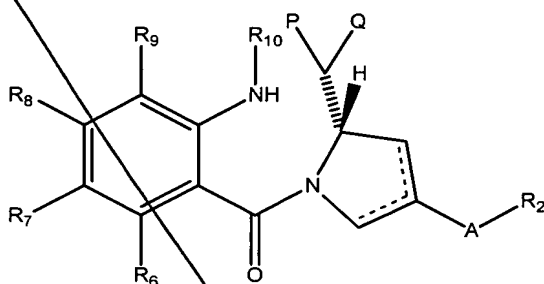
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DI

Please amend claim 40 as follows:

Sub DI C7
40. (Twice amended.) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer and ovarian cancer.

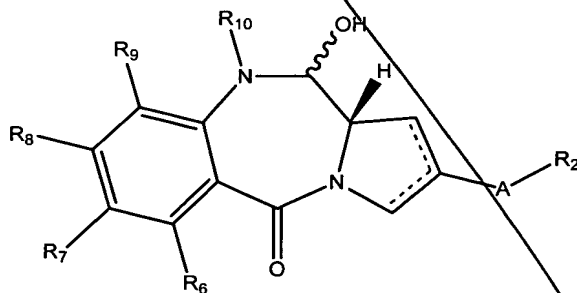
Please amend claim 42 as follows:

42. (Once amended.) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



wherein A, R₂, R₆, R₇, R₈ and R₉ are as defined in claim 1, R₁₀ is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

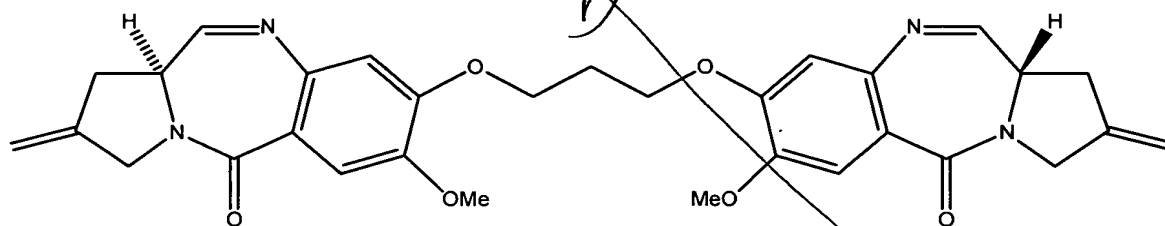
to a compound of formula



wherein A, R₂, R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉ and R₁₀ are as defined above and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 1.

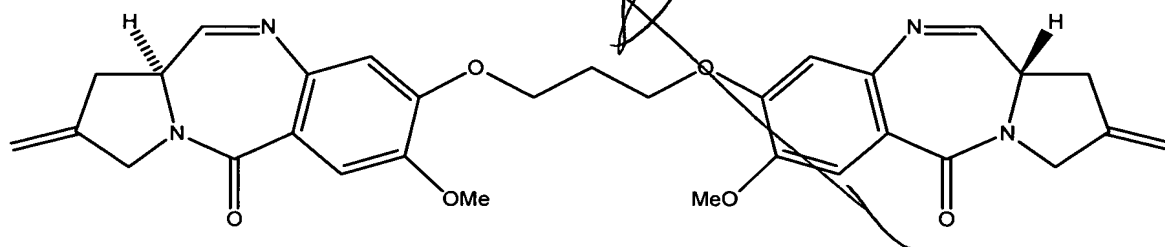
Please amend claim 43 as follows:

43. (Twice amended.) A method of treating a cisplatin-refractory disease comprising administering an effective amount to a patient in need of such treatment of a compound of formula



Please amend claim 44 as follows:

44. (Twice amended.) A method of inhibiting the growth of cisplatin-refractory cells which method comprises treating said cells with a compound of formula



Please amend claim 46 as follows:

- C11
Sub
D1
46. (Once amended.) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Please amend claim 47 as follows:

- Sub
D1
C12
47. (Once amended.) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Please amend claim 48 as follows:

- Sub
D1
C13
48. (Once amended.) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Please amend claim 49 as follows:

- Sub
C14
49. (Once amended.) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 29 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Please add the following claims:

56. (New) A compound according to claim 1 wherein

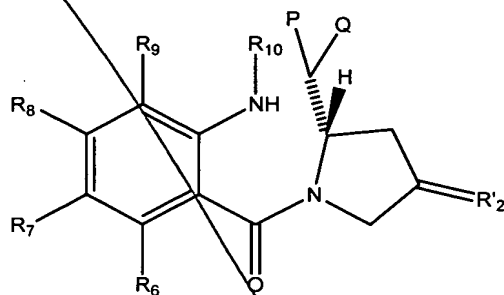
A is a single bond;

C/S
R₂ is 4-methoxyphenyl;

R₆ and R₉ are H, and

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D1
R₇ and R₈ are methoxy.

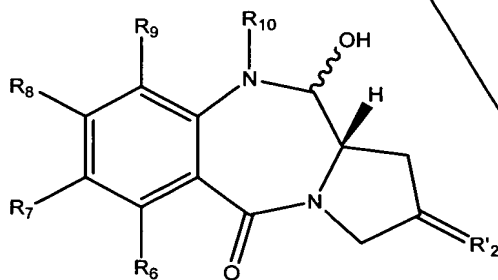
57. (New.) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 13 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



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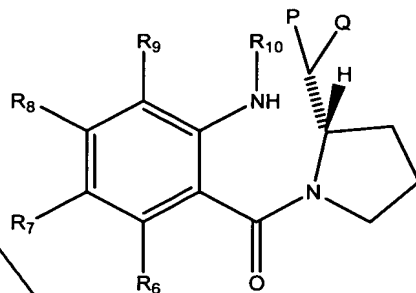
wherein R'₂, R₆, R₇, R₈ and R₉ are as defined in claim 13, R₁₀ is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

to a compound of formula

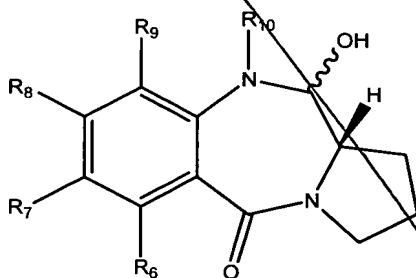


wherein R'₂, R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉ and R₁₀ are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 13.

58. (New.) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 20 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula

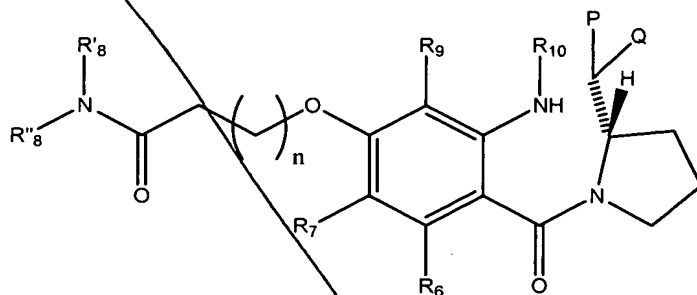


wherein R₆, R₇, R₈, and R₉ are as defined in claim 20, R₁₀ is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde; to a compound of formula

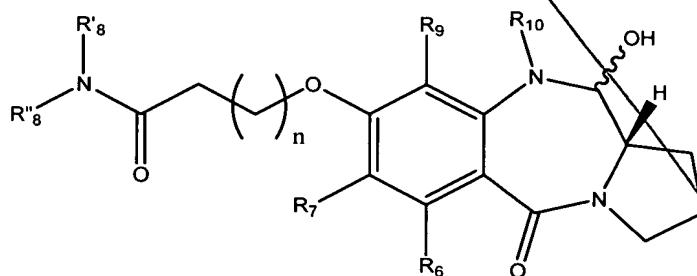


wherein R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉ and R₁₀ are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 20.

59. (New.) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 29 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula

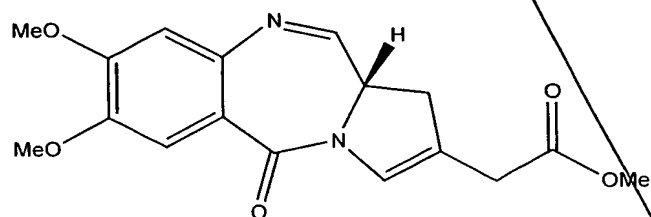
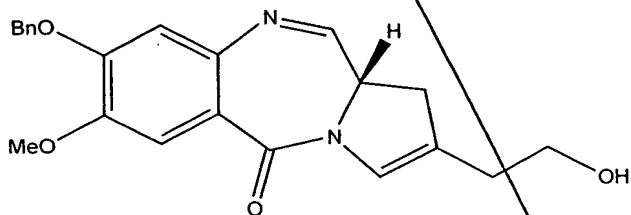
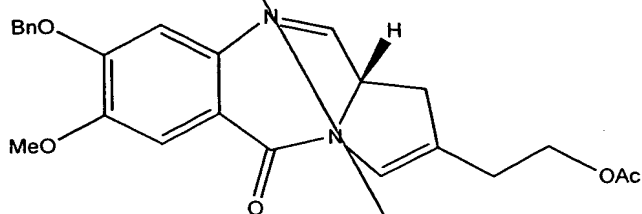
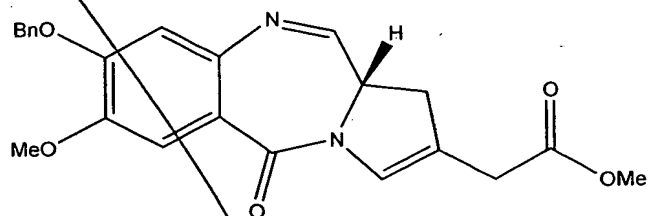


wherein R_6 , R_7 , R_8' , R_8'' , and R_9 are as defined in claim 29, R_{10} is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;
to a compound of formula



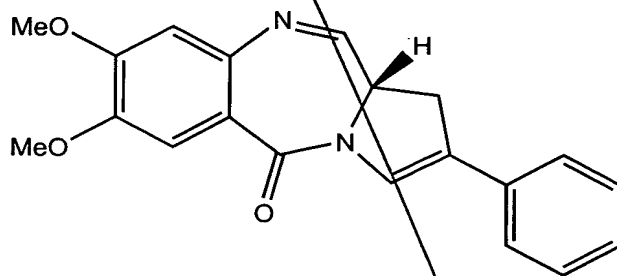
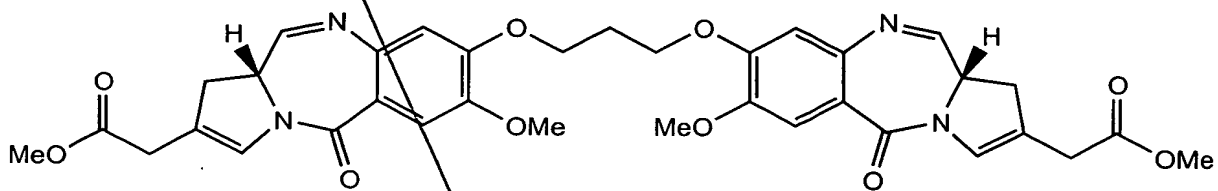
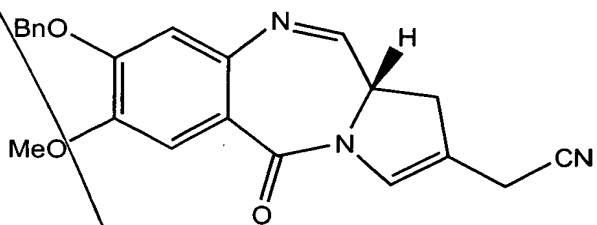
wherein R_6 , R_7 , R_8' , R_8'' , R_9 and R_{10} are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 29.

60. (New.) The method of claim 38 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of

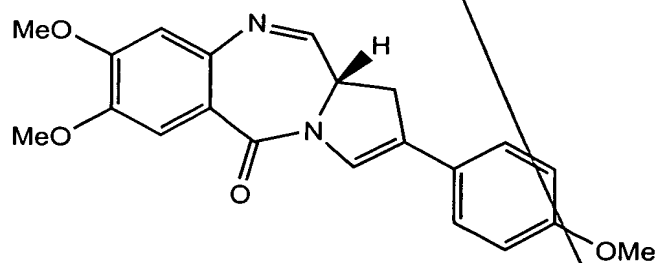


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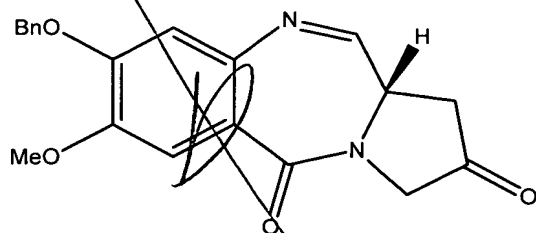
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and

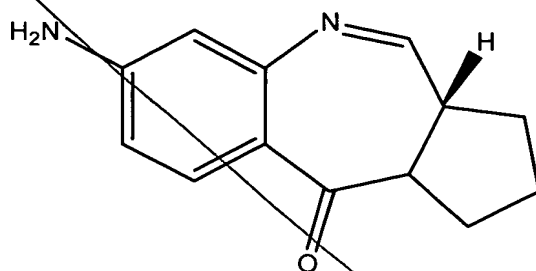


61. (New.) The method of claim 38 wherein the compound is



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62. (New.) The method of claim 38 wherein the compound is



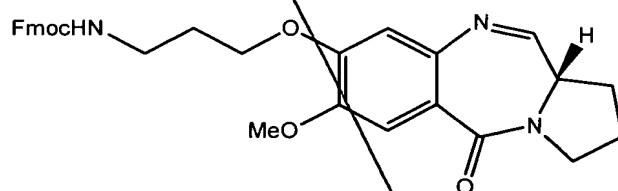
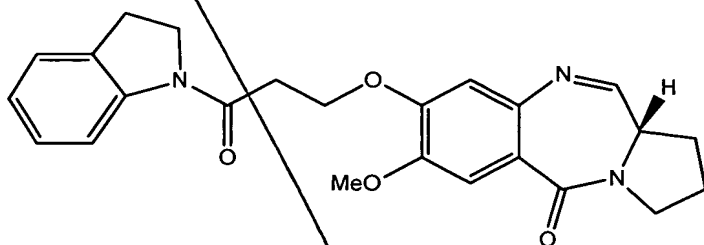
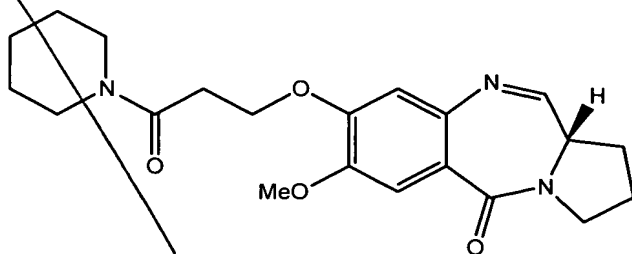
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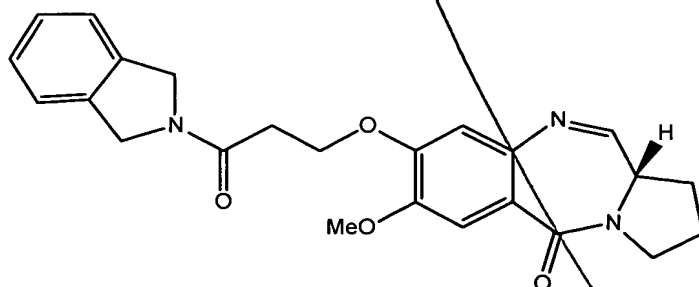
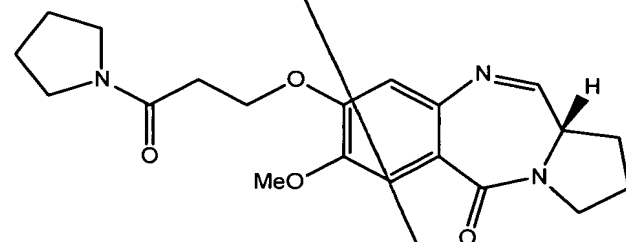
63. (New.) The method of claim 40 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of

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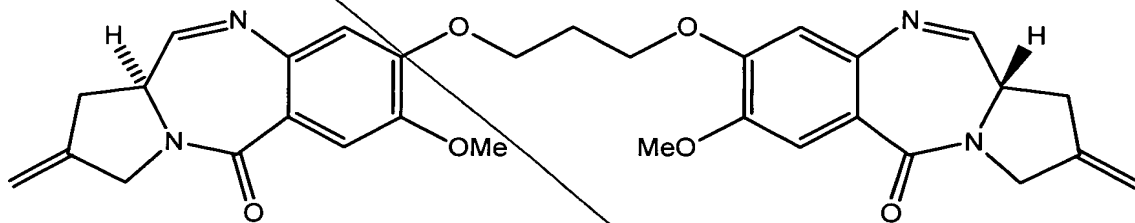
C/S



and



64. (New.) The method of claim 38 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of



and

